

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing in support of House Bill 5150. I am a co-founder of Save Hamden Trees (942 current members) and a founding member (and current Vice Chairperson) of the Hamden Tree Commission.

I feel this new Bill offers significantly more protection for our Public trees. I am particularly hopeful that, as the new Bill outlines, Tree Wardens will be required to post notices on all trees slated to be pruned/removed by the Utility. It is imperative that the **Public** be able to give input on its **Public** trees. As the current Bill stands, only the Abutting Property Owner and the Tree Warden have a right to object, and I strongly feel this is inadequate.

I fully support requiring DOT to submit plans for proposed tree management to the Legislature and DEEP for review prior to any tree-cutting. I would hope that this section can be amended to add that the Legislature and DEEP not only review the plans, but also must **approve** them prior to any work being done.

Lastly, I agree that the Utility should be required to remove any debris from their tree work. This might seem like a logical thing to do, but as I have witnessed, it is not currently being done and neighborhoods are left with unsightly messes. The time-consuming and expensive clean-up is left to the property owner, which is unfair.

HB 5150 improves upon the previous Bill and I strongly supports its passage.

Sincerely,

Jill Nathanson
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